



*Department of State*

# TELEGRAM

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S/S: PLEASE PASS TO JOHN HUGHES AND LARRY SOULAKES

E.O. 12356 N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (SHULTZ, GEORGE P.)

**SUBJECT: PRESS BRIEFING SUMMARY, TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 1984**

1. TUESDAY'S PRESS BRIEFING FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON AFGHANI-  
STAN AND ISRAEL.

2. AFGHANISTAN. THE SPOKESMAN OFFERED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT: "WE HAVE CONFIRMATION FROM SEVERAL SOURCES THAT LARGE-SCALE SOVIET MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE PANJSHIR VALLEY HAS BEGUN. IT APPEARS THAT ON APRIL 20 AND 21, THE SOVIETS BEGAN TO GO UP AND DOWN THE VALLEY, WHICH IS LOCATED ABOUT 50 MILES NORTH OF KABUL. THERE IS ALSO A LARGE CONVOY OF SEVERAL HUNDRED SOVIET VEHICLES, WHICH HAS STARTED TO MOVE NORTH FROM THE MOUTH OF THE VALLEY."

\*THE SOVIETS HAVE PREVIOUSLY CARRIED OUT SIX UNSUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGNS IN THE PANJSHIR VALLEY, THE MOST RECENT OF THEM IN THE SUMMER OF 1982 BEFORE A TRUCE WAS WORKED OUT

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BETWEEN THE SOVIETS AND THE AFGHAN RESISTANCE COMMANDER IN

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THE PANJSHER, AHMAD SHAH HASOOD.

"THERE ARE OTHER SOVIET SWEEP OPERATIONS OCCURRING IN WESTERN AFGHANISTAN NEAR HERAT AND NEAR JALALADAD, AFGHANISTAN'S SECOND AND THIRD LARGEST CITIES, AND IN AREAS IN THE NORTH, CLOSE TO THE BORDER WITH THE SOVIET UNION. THERE IS ALSO INCREASED RESISTANCE ACTIVITY IN AND AROUND KABUL. FURTHERMORE, THE RESISTANCE, OR HUAJAHIDIN, HAS BEEN VERY ACTIVE IN RAIDS AND ATTACKS ON THE MAIN ROAD FROM THE SOVIET UNION INTO KABUL, SOUTH OF THE SALANG TUNNEL. THE HUAJAHIDIN HAVE DESTROYED SEVERAL IMPORTANT BRIDGES, MOST NOTABLY THE MATTOCK BRIDGE, WHICH FURTHER COMPLICATES SOVIET EFFORTS TO KEEP KABUL SUPPLIED WITH NEEDED PETROLEUM SUPPLIES AND STOP THE RECURRENT FUEL SHORTAGES.

"AS WE SAID LAST WEEK, A SPRINGTIME INCREASE IN MILITARY ACTIVITY IN AFGHANISTAN IS TO BE EXPECTED. THE NEW ELEMENTS THIS YEAR ARE HIGH-ALTITUDE SATURATION BOMBING BY THE SOVIETS AND THE PRESENCE OF SUCH LARGE FORCES. THESE TACTICS ARE AN ESCALATION OF THE DESTRUCTIVE AND BRUTAL ANTI-CIVILIAN SOVIET WARFARE IN AFGHANISTAN AND WILL NO DOUBT INFLICT INCREASED SUFFERING ON THE AFGHAN PEOPLE, WHO HAVE BORNE SO MUCH AGONY IN THEIR FOUR YEAR STRUGGLE AGAINST THE SOVIETS."

THE SPOKESMAN DECLINED TO COMMENT ON SEVERAL QUESTIONS ALLEGING U.S. COVERT ASSISTANCE TO THE HUAJAHIDIN.

3. ISRAEL: IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NBC REPORT THAT THE U.S. HAS URGED ISRAEL TO PROVIDE ARMS TO THE NICARAGUAN CONTRAS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID IT WOULD BE INAP-

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PROPRIATE FOR US TO ADDRESS ISRAELI ACTIVITY IN CENTRAL AMERICA, BUT HE REPEATED LAST WEEK'S GUIDANCE THAT THE U.S. HAS NO INTENTION OF PROVIDING FUNDS TO THIRD COUNTRIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUPPORTING COVERT ACTIVITIES IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

4. CHINA: ASKED IF AN AGREEMENT ON U.S.-CHINA NUCLEAR COOPERATION WAS A CERTAINTY, THE SPOKESMAN REFERRED THE QUESTION TO THE PRESIDENT'S PARTY. HE ONLY NOTED THAT CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE IN THAT AREA DURING

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AMBASSADOR KENNEDY'S VISIT TO THE PRC LAST WEEK.

5. OTHER: ASKED ABOUT THIS MORNING'S NYTIMES REPORT OF A STEPPED-UP CUBAN-BACKED OFFENSIVE IN EL SALVADOR THIS FALL, THE SPOKESMAN DECLINED TO COMMENT, SAYING THAT THE SUBJECT WOULD INVOLVE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION. ON THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, THE SPOKESMAN OFFERED A FACTUAL SITREP OF YESTERDAY'S DEMONSTRATIONS PROTESTING PRICE INCREASES AND SAID THAT THERE ARE NO REPORTS OF INJURIES TO ANY ANCITS. THE SPOKESMAN REPORTED THAT AMBASSADOR SCHLAUDEHANN IS PRESENTLY IN CARACAS. ASKED ABOUT THE UNITA BOMBING IN ANGOLA, THE SPOKESMAN SAID HE DID NOT EXPECT TO HAVE ANYTHING FURTHER ON IT AND THAT THERE WERE SEVERAL CONTRADICTORY REPORTS CIRCULATING ABOUT THAT ATTACK. DAK

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